Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5 - 6 and 8 - 15 are presently pending in the
application. Claims 1, 5, 8 and 12 - 14 have been amended.
Claim 7 has been canceled. New claim 15 has been added.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that item 6 of the above-
identified Office Action indicated that claims 7 and 8 would
be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of
the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.
Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary indicates that
claims 12 and 13 are, likewise, allowable, while noting that
claims 12 and 13 have not, otherwise, been rejected.
Additionally, Applicant's current claims 12 and 13 depend from
claim 7, which was indicated as being allowable. As such,
Applicant believes that claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 are actually
allowable, under the Office Action. If this is somehow
incorrect, Applicant requests clarification in the next Office
Action, if one is found to be necessary.

Further, Applicant has amended claim 5, herein, to include all
of the limitations of former claim 7, **which combination was
indicated as being allowable in item 6 of the instant Office
Action.** Correspondingly, claim 7 has been canceled from the

instant application. As such, Applicant's amended claim 5 is

believed to be patentable for reciting, among other things:

> **said respective node** wishing to synchronize with one
> or more others of said nodes **outputting further data**
> **which identifies said respective node in a time slot**
> **assigned to said respective node after outputting the**
> **synchronization signal or receiving the**
> **synchronization signal from another one of said nodes.**
> [emphasis added by Applicant]

The above limitation is believed to not be taught or suggested

by the cited art. Applicant's independent claims 1 and 14

have been amended, herein, to recite a similar limitation to

former claim 7, among others, and, thus, is additionally

believed to be patentable over the cited art.

In item 1 of the above-identified Office Action, it was

indicated that the allowability of claim **3**, "now cancelled",

was withdrawn. Applicant canceled claim **2** in the previous

response, the allowability of which had been previously

indicated. Claim **3** is currently still pending in the instant

application. Additionally, the limitation of former claim 2,

has been canceled from independent claims 1 and 14, to which

it had been added when indicated as being allowable, and the

limitation of former dependent claim 2 has been reintroduced

as Applicant's dependent claim 15.

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In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, and 9 - 11 were

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious

over U. S. Patent No. 5,206,881 to Messenger et al

("**MESSENGER**") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,463,646 to Dillon

et al ("**DILLON**"). In item 4 of the Office Action, claims 5

and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly

being obvious over **MESSENGER** in view of U. S. Patent No.

5,576,702 to Samoylenko ("**SAMOYLENKO**").

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections, as

applied to the amended claims.

More particularly, Applicant's claim 5 has been amended to

include all of the limitations of former claim 7, which claim

was indicated in the Office Action as being allowable. As

such, it is believed that Applicant's current claim 5 is in

condition for allowance.

Additionally, as stated above, Applicant's independent claims

1 and 14 have been amended to recite that, among other

limitations, a respective node wishing to synchronize with one

or more others of the nodes:

> . . . outputting the synchronization signal **and
> further data** which identifies said respective node in
> a time slot assigned to said respective node after
> outputting the synchronization signal or receiving the
> synchronization signal from another one of said nodes.

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The limitation added to amended claims 1 and 14 is the

limitation found allowable in former claim 7. The subject

matter is supported by the specification of the instant

application, for example, by original claim 7, as well as by

page 14 of the instant application, line 5 - page 15, line 3,

which states:

> If neither a synchronization signal nor other data are
> transmitted in this time period the respective node
> outputs a synchronization signal. The node defines
> internally that the starting time of the outputting of
> the synchronization signal is the start of the global
> time slot S. **The node outputs data** in a private time
> slot (preferably in the next time slot) which is
> assigned to it, **by which data it identifies itself to
> other nodes**.
>
> **The outputting of the synchronization signal and of
> the data that identifies the node** is repeated in the
> subsequent time slot cycles. That is to say the node
> outputs a synchronization signal in each global time
> slot S, **and outputs data which identifies it** in the
> respective one (preferably in the first) of the
> private time slots assigned to it of each time slot
> cycle. [emphasis added by Applicant]

Applicant believes that none of the cited **MESSENGER, DILLON** or

SAMOYLENKO references teach or suggest, among other

limitations of Applicant's claims, a respective node wishing

to synchronize with one or more of the other nodes outputting

the synchronization signal **and further data which identifies

the respective node** in a time slot assigned to the respective

node after outputting the synchronization signal or receiving

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the synchronization signal from another one of said nodes, as required by Applicant's claims.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 5 and 14. Claims 1, 5 and 14 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 5.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, 5 - 6 and 8 - 15 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Additionally, please consider the present as a petition for a one (1) month extension of time, and please provide a one (1) month extension of time, to and including, October 2, 2006 to respond to the present Office Action.
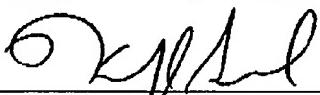
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The extension fee for response within a period of one (1)

month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of $120.00 in

accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please provide any additional extensions of time that may be

necessary and charge any other fees that might be due with

respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of

Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,   Kerry P. Sisselman
                                                     Reg. No. 37,237

_____
For Applicant

October 2, 2006

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